

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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AGRE-00 HEW-04 OES-07 /098 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4929

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), DR, XL, US, EAID, SHUM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH DOMINICAN PRESIDENT
BALAGUER

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 14 AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND HURWITCH AND MEMBERS OF YOUNG'S PARTY HAD A VERY CORDIAL MEETING WITH DOMINICAN PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ, FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER TWO BRACHES OF GOVERNMENT. BALAGUER SAID THE GODR WOULD SIGN THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION AND SAID HE FULLY SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE IMPACT OF PENDING US SUGAR LEGISLATION ON THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY AND RAISED THE QUESTION OF SLOWING DOWN THE RATE OF PAYMENT ON PL 480 LOANS. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL: ON AUGUST 14, AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND HURWITCH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON, DEPUTY HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR SCHNEIDER, AID ADMINISTRATOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN VALDEZ, NSC INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS OFFICER HORMATS, ARA/PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI AND USUN MISOFF MET WITH DOMINICAN PRESIDENT BALAGUAR AND
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FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ PRIOR TO A LUNCH IN YOUNG'S HONOR AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHICH INCLUDED THE HEADS OF THE SENATE, HOUSE, AND SUPREME COURT. YOUNG STATED HOW DELIGNED HE WAS AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND DESCRIBED HIS TRIP EARLIER THAT MORNING TO THE AID-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PROJECT AT FONDO

NEGRO. HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED AT THE GREAT PROGRESS MADE THERE IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR VALDEZ TOLD PRESIDENT BALAGUER THAT THE FONDO NEGRO AGRICULTURAL PROJECT WAS THE TYPE THAT AID WAS MOST INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING AND THAT AID IS NOW GIVING PRIMARY EMPHASIS TO PROGRAMS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, HOUSING AND FAMILY PLANNING.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS: YOUNG COMMENTED ON THE WISDOM OF BALAGUER'S POLICY OF SAVING SOME OF THE SUGAR REVENUES WHEN PRICES WERE HIGH WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE KIND OF LONG-RANGE VIEW WHICH MAKES A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING AND HUMAN RIGHTS POSSIBLE. WITH A STABLE ECONOMY, THE EXPANSION OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IS POSSIBLE. BALAGUER DESCRIBED THE GROWTH OF THE MIDDLE CLASS IN THE DR DURING THE LAST YEAR AS A VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. IN RESPONSE TO YOUNG'S COMMENTS ABOUT EVOLVING ATTITUDES OF YOUTH IN THE US, BALAGUER NOTED THAT YOUTH IN THE DR HAVE COMPLETE LIBERTY AND PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN POLITICS. SCHNEIDER CITED OUR INTEREST IN STEPS ALREADY TAKEN TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR, NOTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND OUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS. HE SAID, AS AMBASSADOR HURWITZ HAS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS WILL BE A MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST IN THE US. THE POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE ALSO WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING. LATER, YOUNG WAS TOLD BY BALAGUER THAT ON AUGUST 16, HE WOULD BE RELEASING MANY OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO STILL REMAIN IN JAIL UNDER A BROAD AMNESTY. SCHNEIDER THEN DISCUSSED THE DESIRABILITY OF THE DR SIGNING THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION. BALAGUER AND JIMENEZ SAID THAT THEY HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROVISION CONCERNING THE DEATH PENALTY BUT THAT THE GODR WOULD SIGN THE CONVENTION, AND JIMENEZ ANNOUNCED THE DECISION AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE LATER THAT AFTERNOON. SCHNEIDER ALSO DISCUSSED OUR TORTURE INITIATIVE AND THE COSTA RICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL. BALAGUER INDICATED THE GODR'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2638

4. SUGAR: NOTING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF SUGAR TO THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY, BALAGUER EXPRESSED CONCERN, AS JIMENEZ HAD AT AN EARLIER MEETING, ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF PENDING US SUGAR LEGISLATION AND ASKED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR DOMINICAN SUGAR. YOUNG NOTED THAT BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WERE FARMERS AND UNDERSTOOD FARM PROBLEMS AND OUTLINED OUR COMMITMENT TO AN INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT AS THE MOST EQUITABLE METHOD OF ENSURING STABLE AND FAIR SUGAR PRICES. NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT IS OPPOSED TO THE PROTECTIONIST STANCE OF THE CONGRESS, YOUNG ADDED THAT THE SUGAR LEGISLATION HAS BEEN CONSIDERED IN A HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE AND STILL FACES CONSIDERATION BY THE FULL HOUSE, A JOINT HOUSE/ SENATE COMMITTEE AND A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL VETO. THE BILL COULD BE DEFEATED WHEN THE HOUSE CONSIDERS IT. BALAGUER NOTED HIS SUPPORT FOR PRICE STABILIZATION FOR ALL COMMODITIES.

5. PL 480 ROLL-OVER: NOTING THAT HE HAD RAISED THE ISSUE DURING KISSINGER'S VISIT, BALAGUER STATED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE DR DEBT BURDEN, PARTICULARLY THE RATE OF AMORTIZATION OF PL 480 LOANS. WHILE THE
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DR HAS MADE PUNCTUAL PAYMENTS, A LONGER TERM FOR PL 480 REPAYMENTS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. THE DEBT BURDEN IN GENERAL IS QUITE HEAVY. YOUNG SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.

BALAGUER NOTED THAT THE DR IS THE BEST CUSTOMER FOR THE US IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THAT US/DR TRADE CONTINUES TO DEVELOP.

6. POPULATION GROWTH: BALAGUER INFORMED YOUNG OF GODR EFFORTS TO SLOW DOWN THE DR'S POPULATION GROWTH -- ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD. YOUNG NOTED THAT HE HAD SEEN NURSES IN FONDO NEGRO DISTRIBUTING BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION AND THAT THEY SEEMED TO BE VERY WELL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMUNITY. THE COMBINATION OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, MONEY AND ELECTRICITY SEEMS NECESSARY TO LOWER THE BIRTH RATE. BIRTH CONTROL DOESN'T WORK WHEN LEFT IN THE HANDS OF DOCTORS BUT DOES WORK WHEN TURNED OVER TO LOCAL WOMEN WHO ARE TRUSTED AND RESPECTED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. HURWITCH SAID THAT A NEW LOAN WOULD HELP TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM THAT YOUNG HAD SEEN IN OPERATION.

7. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO BALAGUER'S STIFFNESS, FORMALITY AND RETICENCE ON THE OCCASION OF PREVIOUS HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, HE RESPONDED WITH WARMTH AND ENTHUSIASM IN HIS MEETING WITH YOUNG AND AT THE LUNCH THAT FOLLOWED. HIS DELIGHT WITH YOUNG'S ELOQUENT TOAST PRAISING BALAGUER'S WISDOM AND DEDICATION -- AND THE POET'S PASSION WHICH HE HAD BROUGHT TO BEAR IN SEEKING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE -- WAS VERY EVIDENT. YOUNG
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